THE
WRESTLING FLYER
NEWSLETTER

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July 4, 1992 **Issue #6**

REMEMBERING BUDDY ROGERS

The wrestling world lost one of its greatest superstars and kindest individuals when "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers died at 11pm on Friday June 26 at the Holy Cross Hospital in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, after suffering a stroke. It started the week before that when he fell in a grocery store, breaking his elbow. While in the hospital, he suffered a mini-stroke that didn't seem to be fatal. However, the next week he suffered a major stroke that left him paralyzed. He was unconscious until he died.

Born Herman Dutch Rohde on February 20, 1921, he later had his name legally changed to Buddy Rogers. He began wrestling in 1939 and has wrestled in six decades. He was the first wrestler to hold both the NWA and WWF Heavyweight Championships, as the only other man to reach this feat was Ric Flair, a man who has used the name "Nature Boy" for years. Buddy Rogers was the first man to use that nickname and was also the first man to bring the figure four leglock to prominence in the sport he loved. He always kept himself in great physical condition and kept away from harmful drugs or substances. People will most remember Buddy for his friendliness and his special way of making people feel good. He was always very polite and had a distinct charisma that nobody will ever be able to duplicate. He lived his life to the fullest and it was a blessing that he never had to suffer or live in pain.

The Wrestling Flyer spoke to a few wrestling legends who were close to Buddy Rogers about what kind of person they knew Buddy to be.

Angelo Poffo: I considered him, during the time that I was wrestling, the #1 wrestler in wrestling. That's during the time when I was wrestling with Bruiser, Gagne, Snyder. Nobody had as good a presentation, as good a body, as good a mind, good on holds. He was the total package, he was #1, then the whole rest of us were #2, including Bruno.

He was always a nice person. He always said hello to everybody, unlike myself, I used to walk into the dressing room kind of quiet. He always said hello to everybody no matter if it was the lowest wrestler on the card or the od word for everybody. He was always a great help to younger wrestlers, where in some sports like basketball or baseball, they don't give the rookies any tips, they don't care if they fall on their face. He always had a good word to say for everybody.

I can't say enough about him, he was the greatest, there was nobody any better. The way I deduct that is that more wrestlers were jealous of him than anybody. When I first started they said, "He's not that good, he's a bad guy," and I found out later it was all jealousy, the whole thing was jealousy. They tried to copy him in every way (Ric Flair, Buddy Landell using the "Nature Boy" name and others copying his style).

He saved his money too, just like me. He was living as a rich man, he was very, very comfortable. I saw him a year ago, played horseshoes with him and George Scott here on the beach, he was just great and a great personality.

He supposedly seriously hurt some guys, he was a strong guy. He had the greatest charisma, greatest talent, greatest body, greatest look when he came into the ring. He had charisma now at 71 when he walked the beach. He had that natural strut. People would turn around who didn't even know who he was and say, "Who was that guy?" Just like when we see a beautiful girl and you turn your head around. That is the kind of effect he had. He just stood out of a crowd.

Bruno Sammartino: In the wrestling world there was no secrets that we didn't particularly care for each other, that was known. But, that's one side of it. The other side of it, as far as Rogers the wrestler, he's as a big a name as there has been in professional wrestling. The guy was charismatic, he was flamboyant, he had the fancy robe, and he had the bleached hair, but besides all that, which a lot of people had, what he has was he was a tremendous wrestler in that ring. I wrestled him many times and had some great matches with him and I saw him having great matches with people like Pat O'Connor, but the best matches I saw him in was with Billy Darnell. They were classics. In the ring, there is no question, that he was a master, he was always in great shape, always looked great physically.

He and I never hit it off. There were always things that happened through the years that wouldn't allow us to get close. One time, when somebody asked him about how I beat him in forty-seven seconds, his reply was that he had had a heart-attack two weeks prior. That of course angered me because it wasn't true and what a terrible to say to an audience. The fact that we never got along, so I would take offense to him saying something that bizarre and next thing I know, I would be responding to that sort of thing. So the relationship was never good. However, I can honestly tell you this- that when I heard that he had had a stroke and he was in bad shape in the hospital, I really felt bad and I am a Catholic, I go to church and all that, and I prayed for him nightly wishing for a miracle, for a recovery. I do not dislike anybody that I'd want to see them die or be happy that somebody dies, I just don't have that kind of hate or bad feeling for anybody at all. I mean what kind of human being are you that you would be so cruel, so vicious, so heartless, to cherish somebody's tragedy like that. I feel very, very bad about Rogers. There's no question about it, he's one of the real giants in the history of professional wrestling.

He looked good, he swam a lot, I know he used to work out with the weights two years ago, I don't know if he was still doing that. But, the guy looked very fit. I thought he looked fantastic, I was very impressed as to how well he kept himself. I never remember once when the guy wasn't in great shape. As far as in the ring, he was a credit in the business.

Coach John Tolos: At the Cauliflower Alley Club in March, that's the last time I saw him, he looked great. I just couldn't believe what the hell happened. We had a lot of fun, we went out to lunch, went to the bar, we both don't drink, but went to the bar and had a good time with the old-timers. The guy looked absolutely great, he was happy, funny, going up and down. He loved being with the guys, he was great. He was there for four or five days with George Scott from Florida.

I felt bad to hear the news because in the past year there was three or four wrestlers that past away- Bruiser, Snyder, Lord Carlton, and now Buddy Rogers. You know, gee, just one right after the other.

He had a quadruple-bypass surgery, I think he weighed about 220, I just couldn't believe it. All I heard was that he went shopping and he fell down and he broke his elbow and he went to the hospital, he lost about 10-15 pds, and he didn't know what was wrong, and then he had that big, massive stroke.

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WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

It was reported here that Vince McMahon had been negotiating with former WWF Champion Bob Backlund about a possible return to the ring for him. As of last week, Mr. Backlund had turned down Vince's offer. However, on 7/1, they made a deal that put Backlund back in the ring, and quite quickly, as he made his return in White Plains, NY, that same night as he defeated Skinner. He also wrestled the next night in Poughkeepsie, NY, also defeating Skinner. He arrived at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center in Poughkeepsie in a pick-up truck, and kindly greeted all his fans and told them that it felt great to be back. The ring announcer announced him as a former WWF Champion, which was a new thing because Vince had supposedly taught his audience that the WWF was born the day Hulk Hogan won the title for his first time. He was greeted by a standing ovation and his comeback should be a temporary way for McMahon to pull the house show attendance up. Backlund still looks in excellent physical condition and wore the same type of outfit he always wore, which is an early indication that Backlund will not give in to the circus.

WWF held tapings this past week with Superstars kicking it off on 6/29 in Glens Falls, NY. Jim Powers & Jim Brunzell beat Dwayne Gill & Barry Hardy. The Golden Retriever, managed by the Genius beat Mike Costello. Tito Santana beat Iron Mike Sharpe. Nasty Boys beat Brunzell & Powers. Ross Greenburg pinned Dublin Destroyer. Disasters beat Gill & Brooklyn Brawler. Ric Flair beat Greenburg. Razor Ramon beat Tito Santana. Disasters beat Money Inc by countout. Undertaker pinned Skinner following a tombstone. Tatanka pinned Kato. Undertaker pinned Repo Man. Bret Hart beat Mike Sharpe. Ultimate Warrior pinned Papa Shango. Randy Savage beat Ric Flair by DQ. 13 other jobber matches were taped for tv. The only major angle shot there was a live interview with Randy Savage, where Flair & Hennig came out and attacked him. Warrior ran in to make the save, as Flair

and Perfect disappeared. Savage got up and told the Warrior that he didn't need his help, nor did he want it.

Challenge was taped the next night in Binghamton, NY, before a crowd of a little over 5,000, as the building had a lot of empty seats. Jim Brunzell pinned Kato. Skinner pinned Jason Knight. Repo Man beat Brian Costello in a match taped for Prime Time. Jim Powers pinned the Golden Retriever, this night managed by Mr. Fuji, in a match for Prime Time. Beverly Brothers beat Natural Disasters by countout in a match for Prime Time. British Bulldog pinned Dave Milten. High Energy beat Dwayne Gill & Dublin Destroyer. Mountie pinned Bill Pierce. Bret Hart beat Leo Cruise (Von Krus). Shawn Michaels beat Red Tyler. Tito Santana beat Glen Ruth. Money Inc pinned Bill Pierce & Flex Armstrong. Sgt Slaughter beat Richy Rich. Papa Shango pinned Ross Greenburg. LOD beat Chris Duffy & another jobber. Virgil pinned Razor Ramon in a dark match. Tatanka beat Iron Mike Sharpe. Nailz beat Tommy Roy. Jim Powers pinned Bob Bradley in a match for Prime Time. Bret Hart pinned British Bulldog with a back-suplex into a bridge after 15 minutes of exciting action taped for Prime Time (Bret nailed Davey with an elbow off the second rope that cut Davey's nose.) Undertaker pinned Barry Hardy. Rick Martel beat Brian Reiger. Nasty Boys beat Tony Devito & Tommy Ulysses. High Energy beat Money Inc by DQ (during this match the camera crew handed out WWF ice-cream bars so they could tape the fans devouring them). Undertaker pinned Mountie after a tombstone. Virgil beat Rick Martel by DQ. Repo Man beat Phil Apollo. Beverly Brothers beat Jason Knight & Jerry Seavey. Warrior pinned Papa Shango. Savage beat Flair by DQ after Flair hit Savage with brass knucks with the ref out, then covered Randy, ref counted three and awarded the bout to Flair, but when he raised Flair's arm, the knucks fell out, and the ref reversed the decision. They taped interviews with Nailz (talking about his SummerSlam match with Virgil) and Flair & Perfect (blaming Jack Tunney for not getting the title shot at Slam). One note from this taping, when Mean Gene had the fans cheering for the intros of the show, a group of younger men in the upper deck held up a banner that said- WWF Rules Vince McMahon Fan Club. A plant or what? Absent from both tapings were Berzerker, Kamala, and Kerry Von Erich.

The official reason SummerSlam from London is being taped on Aug. 29 and being shown in the states on Aug. 31, is to allow room for a possible rainout. Matches include Ultimate Warrior vs Randy Savage (if there is going to be a heel in this one, it will be Savage), Bret Hart vs British Bulldog, Money Inc vs LOD, Kamala vs Undertaker, Beverly Brothers vs Disasters, Papa Shango vs Kerry Von Erich, Crush vs Repo Man (a meeting of former Demolition partners), Berzerker vs Tatanka, Nailz vs Virgil. The Flyer expects all three belts to change hands. The 83,000 seat Wembley Stadium sold out in six hours, amounting to a $4 million gate, and probably $2 million more in merchandise.

Berzerker John Nord missed the 6/27 weekend and the his dates for the following week, including the tapings, because of an injured shoulder. In some of the matches he was scheduled to wrestle the Undertaker, he was substituted by the team of Kamala & Mr. Fuji. Undertaker won the matches by pinning Fuji....There is a lot of talk about Sensational Sherri Martel wanting to get off the road, as she only wants to do tv tapings and PPV's. There were rumors going around saying that there was a "fake" Sherri at some of the house shows recently. Don't believe it....Worcester, MA, on 7/20 and Portland, ME, on 7/21 will be the next set of tv tapings. After that, Huntsville, AL, on 8/10 and Nashville, TN, on 8/11 will be the next set. Tapings after SummerSlam will be in Hershey, PA, on 9/1 and Landover, MD, on 9/2. Matches announced for the Landover show were Nailz/Bossman, Razor Ramon/Randy Savage, Undertaker/Flair, Kamala/Ultimate Warrior....The WWF is supposedly doing a fundraiser for a library in the city of its offices, Stamford, CT, on 8/3. It took a long time to put it together because a lot of the area residents didn't think that professional wrestling was an appropriate or respectable way to earn money for the financially troubled library.

WWF at the Capital Centre on 6/28: Tito Santana beat Kato. Nailz beat Jim Brunzell with the chokehold in four minutes, then it took five minutes to get him out of the ring after beating on the former Killer Bee. Mountie beat Sgt Slaughter by DQ in about three minutes. Ultimate Warrior pinned Papa Shango (at one point in the match, the Warrior had just given him a bunch of running clotheslines that sent Papa out to the floor. Warrior seemed invincible. Then Papa jumped up and grabbed his piece of wood with strings hanging from it and started shaking it. Warrior started grabbing his stomach, writhing in pain. A lot of the crowd laughed at this as it is an insult and it has ruined the believability in the WWF, if there was any before.). Davey Boy Smith pinned Repo Man after hitting him with his hook. Money Inc beat Disasters when IRS hit Typhoon with the briefcase and then pinned him in a match where the belts could have changed hands on a countout. Bret Hart pinned Shawn Michaels in the best match of the night, and the real Sherri was there.

WWF at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center in Poughkeepsie, NY, on 7/2 and basically the same results for White Plains, NY, on 7/1: Jim Powers pinned Kato. Nailz beat Virgil with the chokehold. Bob Backlund triumphantly returned as he pinned Skinner. Shawn Michaels pinned Tito Santana in an excellent match. Rick Martel beat Tatanka by countout. LOD & Warrior beat Nasty Boys & Papa Shango when Hawk pinned Saggs.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

Titles are changing hands here like crazy. New US Tag Team Champions, new Tag Team Champions, and a new Light Heavyweight Champion. First, on 6/25 at a taping in Kansas City, MO, Dick Slater & Barbarian (Sione Vailahi) beat the Freebirds to capture the WCW US Tag Team Championships. Then on 7/5 at the Great American Bash in Atlanta, GA, at the Omni, Brad Armstrong beat Scotty Flamingo to win the WCW Light Heavyweight Title and on that same card, "Dr. Death" Steve Williams & Terry "Bam Bam" Gordy beat the Steiners to win the WCW Tag Team Championships when Williams pinned Scott

Steiner after interference from Gordy. The tag title switch was inevitably going to happen soon, but Watts surprised everyone with the light heavyweight belt change, and the US tag title switch came as a shock to everybody because there was no knowledge of a comeback for former Powers of Pain Barbarian and Dick Slater, especially together, as a duo. The US Tag Team Championships will be put to bed within the next month though. Also at the tv taping in Kansas City, former Skysraper Dan Spivey made his return.

With Watts now in control, there has been a lot of talk about certain wrestlers coming and going. Look for Bret Hart, Ted DiBiase, and Jake Roberts to all be in under Watts by Thanksgiving. There has also been some talk about Dusty Rhodes putting on the tights one last time. The Cowboy is also coming down hard on some guys such as Rick Rude, the Steiners, and others who he feels need some discipline. This is going to be a tightly ran ship and if anyone gets too far out of hand, they'll probably be thrown overboard.

Two weeks before the Steiners lost the WCW Tag Team Belts, they captured a very prestigious title over in Japan, the IWGP Tag Team Championships. They won them on June 26 in Tokyo, Japan, from Bam Bam Bigelow & Big Van Vader, when Rick Steiner pinned Bigelow. Also on that card, Jushin "Thunder" Liger lost his IWGP Junior Heavyweight Belt to El Samurai.

WCW at the Omni in Atlanta, GA, on 7/5: Bobby Eaton beat Larry Zbyszko. Jushin "Thunder" Liger wrestled Johnny B. Badd to a time-limit draw. Dustin Rhodes pinned Greg Valentine. Ron Simmons pinned Super Invader. Barry Windham pinned WCW TV Champion Stunning Steve Austin in a non-title match. Sting beat Arn Anderson. Brad Armstrong beat Scotty Flamingo to win the light heavyweight belt. Terry Gordy & Steve Williams beat the Steiners to win the tag team belts. Nikita Koloff wrestled Rick Rude to a double-DQ.

WCW at the Baltimore Arena in Baltimore, MD, on 7/4: Larry Zbyszko pinned Bobby Eaton. Dustin Rhodes beat Greg Valentine. Steve Austin pinned Barry Windham. Scotty Flamingo pinned Jushin Liger. Ron Simmons & Ricky Steamboat pinned Cactus Jack & Arn Anderson. Sting pinned Super Invader in a horrible match, Hercules missed a lot of moves. Rick Rude pinned Nikita Koloff with the use of brass knuckles. The Steiners beat Williams & Gordy by DQ when Williams jumped off the top rope after nearly thirty minutes of great wrestling action.

WCW at the UIC Pavilion in Chicago, IL, on 6/28: Z-Man beat the Super Invader by DQ. Larry Zbyszko pinned Bobby Eaton. Greg Valentine beat Brian Pillman. Steve Austin and Barry Windham wrestled to a time-limit draw. Williams & Gordy beat Dustin Rhodes & Ron Simmons when Gordy pinned Dustin. Sting & Ricky Steamboat beat Rick Rude & Cactus Jack by countout.

WCW at the Mecca Arena in Milwaukee, WI, on 6/27: Ron Simmons pinned Super Invader. Larry Zbyszko beat Bobby Eaton. Cactus Jack beat Z-Man. Greg Valentine pinned Brian Pillman. Williams & Gordy beat Dustin Rhodes & Barry Windham when Williams pinned Dustin. Rick Rude pinned Ricky Steamboat. Sting pinned Steve Austin.

THE INDEPENDENT SCENE

Stan "Plowboy" Frazier died on Tues. June 30 from complications with his disease of Diabetes. He worked mostly in Memphis, but he was most well known as Uncle Elmer when he worked in the WWF for a couple years as part of the Hillbillys- Uncle Elmer, Hillbilly Jim, Cousins Luke & Junior. He was married on Saturday Night's Main Event with an inevitable interruption from Roddy Piper. He was 54....Wahoo McDaniel was arrested on Independence Day 7/4 on a charge of drunk driving. He was wrestling that night in a town outside of Charlotte, NC....Eastern Championship Wrestling crowned its very first tag team champions on 6/23 at the Sports Bar in Philly. Tournament matches saw Super Destroyers pinned J.T. Smith & Jimmy Jannetty, Nightbreed (Glen Osbourne & Max Thrasher) beat the Flames (Mr. Anthony & Mr. Perez), and the Super Destroyers beat Nightbreed to be crowned ECW Tag Team Champions. Other matches on the card were Hurricane Curry beat Super Ninja (how many of them have there been?) by DQ. Samoan Warrior beat Metal Maniac. Don E. Allen, Sandman, Peaches, and Johnny Hotbody beat Tony Stetson, Larry Winters, and Vivacious Veronica when Hotbody and teammates rammed Veronica into Sandman's surfboard, then Hotbody pinned her. Don "Rock" Muroco wrestled King Kaluha to a double-DQ. Jack Hammer pinned Steve Richards. Jim "Anvil" Neidhart pinned Wildman Salvatore Bellomo. They return to the Sports Bar on 7/14 with Hotbody vs Jimmy Snuka in a return match for the ECW Championship.. Dennis Galamb and Bob Banskiver promoted an outdoor show on 6/26 at the Atco Raceway in Atco, NJ, before 490 fans. Chris Candito pinned A.C. Golden Phoenix, Spider beat Chris Evans, S.D. Jones pinned King Kaluha, Heidi Lee Morgan beat Rustee "The Fox" Thomas, Bushwhackers beat Johnny Rotten & Enforcer, Jim Neidhart beat Cheetah Kid, Ivan Koloff and Boy Gone Bad wrestled to a double-countout, and Nikolai Volkoff beat Honky Tonk Man....On 6/27 at a car lot in Wallingford, CT, The Tazmaniac pinned Scott Taylor, Surfer Ray Odyssey & Paul Zion beat Flex Lavender & Chris Candito, Kevin Sullivan beat Tommy Dreamer, Warlord beat Hurricane Ramsey, Jimmy Snuka pinned Metal Maniac, Vic Steamboat and Honky Tonk Man wrestled to a double-DQ, and Tony Atlas vs Don Muroco never started....The next day in the same town at the Oakdale Music Theatre, Tony Rumble promoted a card that ran very smoothly and was said to have been very enjoyable. Surfer Ray Odyssey wrestled Tommy Dreamer to a time-limit draw, Johnny Rodz beat Chris Candito, Paul Zion beat Flex Lavender, Scott Taylor pinned Metal Maniac, Vic Steamboat & Eddie Gilbert beat Kevin Sullivan & Tazmaniac (best match of the night, great work, Taz suffered a legit injury after a tremendous bump to the floor), Misty Blue & Crystal Blue & Little Louie beat Kat LeRoux & Linda Dallas & Little Doomer, Tony Atlas pinned Jimmy Snuka, Bushwhackers beat Warlord & Barbarian (Powers Of Pain) by DQ, Don Muroco beat Honky Tonk Man....IWCCW, which can now be seen on Sports Channel on Sundays from 3:30-4:30pm Eastern time, held a card in Reading, PA, on 6/20 as Neil Superior beat Steve Kelly, Mondo Kleen beat Joe Savoldi by DQ as he got caught with Kleen's foreign object, Dr. Johnny Wildside pinned Doug Keck, Nikolai Volkoff beat Jimmy Deo by DQ.

FLYER FAN FARE

Anyone interested in personalized autographed photos of former longest reigning WWF Intercontinental Champion, send $6 cash, check, or money order to Honky Tonk Man Enterprises Inc., 8336 Westfair Circle South, Germantown, TN 38139.

If you love various merchandise, send a SASE to Chokehold Collectibles, PO Box 3099, Fullerton, CA 92634.

Mickey Sharp of 4350 Sulphur Springs Rd., College Station, TX 77845 has a ton of rare wrestling tapes available. Send a SASE for more information.

Marcia A. Thorne of 1951 Briggs St., Harrisburg, PA 17103 is a die-hard Roddy Piper fan. She is looking for old video footage of Piper, old interviews, and just about everything and anything anybody has on Roddy. She'll be waiting to hear from you.

Georgiann Makropoulos of 23-44 30th Drive, Astoria, NY 11102-3252, publishes what I think is the largest newsletter out there, the Wrestling Chatterbox. Send $2.50 to her and you'll be glad you did. She is also very close to Superstar Billy Graham and he was just released from the hospital after having his third hip replacement. He needs our fans support, so send him get well cards through Georgie, she'll send them along. You might get a reply back from him, you never know. Also, anyone wishing to send mass cards to the family of Mr. Buddy Rogers can do so through Georgiann, she'll send them right along. In these bad times for some guys who put on great shows for us, let's show them we remember them and are thinking of them.

The #1 journalist of professional wrestling, Dave Meltzer, publishes the best news sheet around, the Wrestling Observer Newsletter. It is available at $12 for 8 issues. The address is PO Box 1228, Campbell, CA 95009-1228.

The Wrestling Flyer has 3 1/2 by 5 color photos available of just about any wrestling superstar. Each photo is only $1.50, which includes postage & handling. There are also 8 by 10 color photos available of your favorites. Each photo is only $6, which includes postage & handling. We have a wide range of photos such as in-ring shots, posed shots, and shots of wrestlers outside of the ring. Outside of US customers must add $1 for each item.

The Wrestling Flyer has a 2 hour videotape of the media's coverage of the scandals in wrestling. The shows on this tape include; Inside Edition with Bruno Sammartino, David Shults, and Billy Graham from 1/3/92; Larry King Live Show with Vince McMahon, Bruno Sammartino, and Barry O from 3/13/92; The Donahue Show with Vince McMahon, Billy Graham, Bruno Sammartino, Murray Hodgson, Barry O, John Arezzi, Tom Hankins, and Dave Meltzer from 3/16/92; The CBS Evening News with Dan Rather; Now It Can Be Told with Rita Marie, Murray Hodgson, and others; A Current Affair. When you order this tape, you'll also receive a revealing 5 page interview with Bruno Sammartino (conducted by John Clark) and a sample copy of the Wrestling Flyer Newsletter. This package sells for $15. $18 for customers outside of US.

To be listed in this section, send a sample of your product to the Flyer. In future issues this section will also feature letters from our readers, so send them in.

WRESTLING FLYER INTERVIEW WITH HOSSEIN KHOSROW VAZIRI

BY JOHN CLARK

Khosrow Vaziri was most famous in his career as the Iron Sheik and most recently wrestled as Colonel Mustafa. He was released from the WWF recently and is currently looking for work on the independent circuit. He will most likely work as the Iron Sheik once again.

JC: What prior training or athletics did you participate in before you became a professional wrestler?

IS: First, I was on the All-Country Iranian team for freestyle and Greco-Roman in the National Iranian High School. After that I was in the Iranian army for two years. Then I worked for the National Iranian Television for three years. After that I came to Minnesota with the Olympic coach, Mr. Allan Rice. He had invited me, so I came to Minnesota and I was an amateur at that time. I was helping Mr. Allan Rice for Greco-Roman in Munich, Germany in 1972. Before I became pro, I had my team which they called the MN Wrestling Club and my team was five or six time champion of AAU amateur athlete union. Also myself, I am a four-time AAU champion. I found out that in amateur, there was no money except for the winner, so I decided to turn professional. So I started in Minnesota to be a professional wrestler after my last Munich, Germany Olympic game in 1972, at the end of 1972. I love professional wrestling very much and I did excellent because, I don't have to talk about myself, intelligent people know all my life I was freestyle, Greco-Roman, and most of all, professional. I went from Minnesota, then all over the world, till I became Turner TBS TV Champion, and Mid-Atlantic champion, at that time George Scott was the promoter. I was also Canadian heavyweight champion, till I made it to the WWF tag team champion and also single, before Hulk Hogan, I beat Bob Backlund. I did very good, I'm happy about it, but the last couple years have been nothing special, just business for me. Still I can't quit, I'm training hard, I have a little gym in the backyard, I was training before and it's 90 degrees in Georgia. I'm really training hard to get ready again, I hope I can come back one more time.

JC: You brought up the match with Bob Backlund where you won the WWF Championship. Was there a problem that night with Backlund, like he refused to give up the belt? Did you have to shoot on him (not pulling the punches, where the match becomes a real fight- Steiners are famous for it) to follow through with the promoter's plans?

IS: It was a shoot because Bob Backlund was one of the great amateur and professional wrestlers in this country. He didn't want to do the job. I think before that match, he hurt his shoulder, so I had a little bit more advantage to go out there and shoot and try and get that belt back. He didn't want to drop the belt and so I had to go out there and shoot and portend my reputation and background. So I had to take advantage of him. People know that in my back-

ground, shooting was a little bigger than Bob Backlund, so that way I have to go shoot to get the belt.

JC: Is that why he was phased out after that, because he didn't want to cooperate?

IS: Exactly.

JC: Could you please tell us about what happened to you after you were arrested with Jim Duggan in New Jersey?

IS: Well Hacksaw Jim Duggan was driving and I was the passenger and it's against the law in New Jersey if somebody has a beer in the car. It was for a beer and marijuana and maybe some of the other things you've heard. For this reason, we were suspended. I went to Richview Institute in Georgia, like a rehab. Mr. McMahon Jr. put me in there and he paid for everything. After that I became very clean and I got sober and since that I didn't touch that. I respect Vince for that, his father and himself was always good to me. I was there one month and I'm clean now, I quit everything. I'm very happy about that. Now all the tests I take, I pass the tests. Also about steroids, a long time ago, before we didn't have tests, once in a while I take. But since we have tests, I quit all of them, no more. Maybe all my life, two, three times I used it, not very often. In my country, we didn't have that stuff, everything was natural. But when I came to this country, some people gave it to me, but I didn't know what it was. Maybe all together, two, three times I took it. When I started in the business, I was 175 pds or 180 pds and I had a rough time gaining weight, and I'm talking about 1968, 1969. The two, three times I used it (roids), that helped a little bit to gain weight, but I didn't use it steady all year long.

JC: How do you feel about your recent stint as the character Colonel Mustafa?

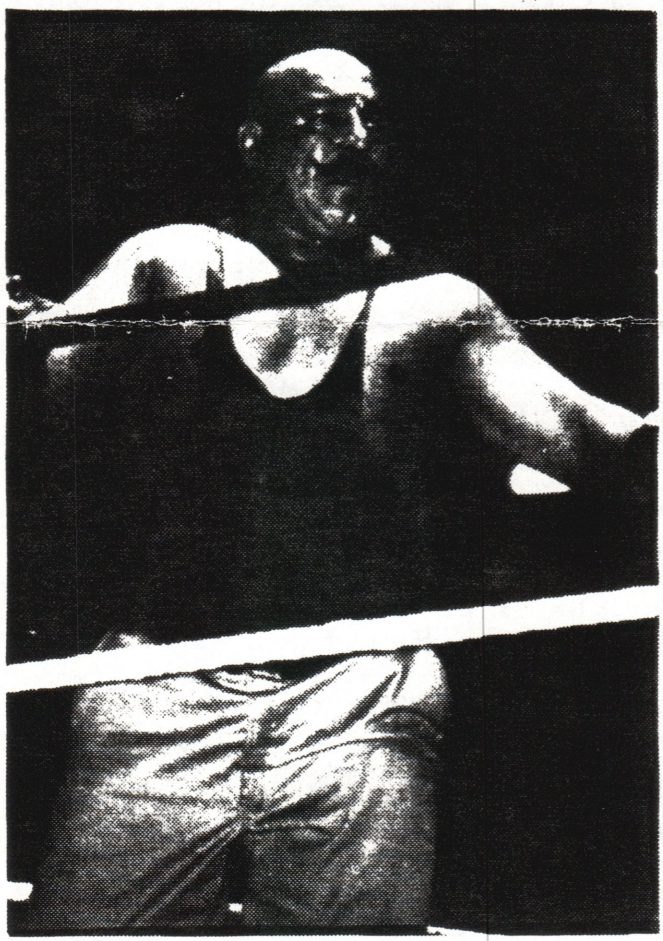
IS: That was Vince McMahon, my boss told me to do it and I did it.

JC: Do you think it had a negative effect on your career?

IS: Some people think it wasn't good for the Iron Sheik to be Col Mustafa, but at least I had a job and I was happy about it. You never know, maybe some day I'll come back as the Iron Sheik.

JC: Do you have any resentment towards Vince because of the fact that they used as Col Mustafa for a very short period of time to be an accessory for his war gimmick, and now he just kind of dumped you when the thing was over?

IS: Exactly, I don't have to say it, you're smart yourself, you know what it was about. I'll just say, I can knock down the company and Vince, but I leave it to the people to decide if it was good or bad. At least I had a job and I was happy about it, Vince gave me a last chance. I respect the man for that and I'll do my best again to be a perfect professional this time. I hope I can go back again in WWF or TBS or wherever, I have to be much better than I was before, so I'm training hard. I hope Mr. McMahon will one more time take me back, as Iron Sheik, as Col Mustafa, or be a manager. I hope I can get work somewhere.



EDITOR: For wrestlers such as the Iron Sheik who really don't have training in any other fields, it is extremely tough to find good jobs. In the wrestling industry today, there is not much room for the boys once they leave a major organization. One moment Sheik was earning good money with the WWF, the next moment he's left without a job. The wrestling business is a very good place to make money while you're in it, but once you leave, it becomes a nightmare to find money in other places.

WRESTLING FLYER INTERVIEW WITH JIMMY "SUPERFLY" SNUKA

BY JOHN CLARK

JC: What were you interested in when you were younger and then how did you get involved with wrestling?

JS: I was born in the Fiji Islands and I was raised in Hawaii. Mostly when I was growing up in Hawaii, I usually liked to watch football and baseball games. I was starting out in bodybuilding, and where I worked out at, Vince's

wrestlers used to come and work out at, and so that's how I got interested in it. I met Dean Ho at the gym and he helped me get interested. I had to go to a wrestling school and learn how to wrestle and learn how to do all the basic wrestling stunts. This was in Honolulu, when they had some wrestling schools going, so I took advantage of it.

JC: Where did you go when you first came over to the states to wrestle?

JS: I started in Portland, OR, with Don Owen. I was there for seven years from 1970-1977, it was the best time I ever had in the business. I really enjoyed it. Also when I was in Portland, I used to go back and forth to San Francisco with Roy Shires and then I used to go down to Dallas, TX, as I was down there for six months. After that, I went to Charlotte, NC, the promoter there at the time was George Scott. Right from Charlotte, I went to New York (WWF) the big one. My "Superfly" (leap off top rope) really got over famous. I first came to the WWF in 1983, I believe. I think I stayed for about three years. I had to leave after that because of traveling a lot and the body needs to take a break for a while. Then I was up in AWA for a while. Then Col DeReers pushed me from the top rope down to the concrete floor and it really busted me open. That's a lot of punishment on the body. After that I just went back home, back to Hawaii, and rested for a while, until I recuperated and then I started to travel to Japan.

JC: It's surprising that a superstar of your caliber never got a title in the WWF, was there any reason why they never gave you a belt?

JS: There were times when things were promised to me, but when old man Sr. died and his son took over, a lot of things changed around. But that's the way business goes.

JC: Some time before you came back to the WWF, Vince McMahon publicly called you a "basket case." How do you feel when a guy you worked for says something like that?

JS: To me, a word is only a word. Everybody says everything else, but you always got to be positive about everything. Like I said, that's business and that's the way it goes. You can't help that.

JC: What made you come back to the WWF?

JS: I was promised things to come back. When I came back things were promised to me that just didn't happen. Like I said, it's business. But I had a good time, I enjoyed it and I'm still loving it.

JC: Near the end of your stay in the WWF, you were doing a lot of jobs for some guys who many feel didn't have the ability or even deserve to be in the ring with you. However, a lot of people don't understand that you were working twice as hard to put him over. Could you comment on that?

JS: Well you know brother, I'm always like a teacher and it took pleasure for me to go out there and wrestle like that and teach these kids and these type of people. But people, they know, it's a great entertainment and it's my sport that I love very much right now and I enjoy it.

JC: Out of all the promotions you've been, which one was you're favorite?

JS: Most likely in Portland, OR, but I guess all over the world is important, especially in our kind of business. It's always nice to travel to different places. I like to visit countries and meet a lot of different people and see new things. It's a very good experience, it's like going to school.

JC: What are you doing these days and what's in the future for "the Superfly?"

JS: Well I'm just sitting by and going around to different places wherever I can go. I think all the people in the world should get a chance to see "the Superfly" one more time. I'm doing some shows out there (his residence- Salt Lake City, UT), fund-raisers for the high schools for the baseball, wrestling, football teams. I enjoy doing those things for the high schools and it helps the kids, and I love doing things for those kids. It's always nice to help other people and teach them things that they would like to know.

By Michael Mills

NORTH MIAMI

"IS IT FOR the ballerina outfit?" Hulk Hogan asks a woman who comes to his trailer to see if he's ready for a costume fitting. "They can wait a while for that."

Hulk Hogan in a tutu? "It's some scene where the little girl tries to teach me some etiquette," explains the wrestling superstar, who's filming "Rough Stuff" in North Miami at Greenwich Studios (formerly Ivan Tors Studio, home of "Flipper" and "Sea Hunt"). "I've already done a teacup scene with her, with my hair in curlers."

"Rough Stuff" stars Hogan, who prefers the name Terry (he was born Terry Bollea). He plays an ex-athlete who reluctantly becomes a bodyguard for two rich kids. It's a low-budget action-comedy that sounds sort of like a hybrid of "The Toy," "Home Alone" and "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids."

The eclectic cast includes Sherman Hemsley (TV's "The Jeffersons" and "Amen") as Hogan's down-on-his-luck manager, Robert Gorman ("Don't Tell Mom the Babysitter's Dead") and Madeline Zima ("The Hand That Rocks the Cradle") as the kids, and Austin Pendleton ("My Cousin Vinny") as their newly widowed, inventor father. A formidable TV and radio personality who bills herself as Mother Love makes her movie debut as the family cook, and singer-actor David Johansen is the villain.

Even though Hogan's character doesn't stray far from the wrestler's image, he sees the picture as moving him a little beyond his previous starring vehicles, "No Holds Barred" and "Suburban Commando." "It's like the Right Guard commercial I did, where I'm pretty much Terry.

OGAN

om Page 14

ything less would be uncivilized' — I mean, that's " Hulk Hogan's a different trip, man.

"People say, 'Oh, you haven't had acting lessons.' I've been acting now for 18 years, in a different y, in the ring and in front of a live audience. This is learning to ride a different type of bicycle. It's a ural extension of what I've been doing."

Hogan gestures toward Hemsley, who has joined n in the trailer. "These guys are a pretty good gauge. ey tell me when I'm on and when it feels right. I'm good company here. It's got to rub off on me. I keep nking of myself as a big, old, bald-headed sea turtle, I'm just going to take it one step at a time."

For the old pro Hemsley, who got his start as a mual-comedy star and has a record called "Dance" ming out this month, "Rough Stuff" represents a ve in another direction. "I'd been wanting to get inved with wrestling for a long time," he says. "I alys watch wrestling, and I see how the managers are il crazy. One day I was just thinking I'd like to do nething like that, and then the movie came along."

Hogan and Hemsley have hit it off so well that y're toying with the idea of going on the road togeth- "I like the whole wrestling attitude," says Hemsley. 's good, clean fun."

Later on the set, the two run through a scene in ich Hemsley tries to persuade Hogan to take the dyguard job. The rehearsals go well. Then, with the mera rolling, Hogan turns a key line inside out: "Out the man and into the can," he says as he serves nned chili to Hemsley, and the crew members ammed onto the set crack up. Moments later the bit oes perfectly. "Print it," says director Michael Gottlieb.

"I wanted to do something different, even though it's Hulk Hogan," Gottlieb explains during a pause in shooting. He says the studio, New Line, handed him a one-line idea — "a bodyguard and children" — and he developed it from there.

"What I wanted was a bunch of misfits getting together, so I could write about each having to overcome a hurdle. They're all displaced, and they all converge in this mansion and are transformed by each other, and they would not normally have ever met."

Like almost everybody on the set, the director confides — a little nervously, as if he's afraid of jinxing the project — that the production is going unusually smoothly. And indeed, the cast and crew seem strikingly upbeat, despite long hours and the inherent tediousness of film-making. "It beats working," jokes Hemsley. The bulletin board in the production office reads: WALL OF DAILY FUN.

Although Hogan points out that it's "putting the cart before the horse," he says everyone involved with "Rough Stuff," including the studio, is now so enthusiastic that there's already talk of a sequel, perhaps a TV series. "Naturally, we're speculating, but still, it's nice to have people positive. The morale's really cool."

More Florida-based work would sit well with Hogan, whose wrestling and business interests take him all over the country. He and his wife and two children live on the other side of the state in Clearwater Beach, however, and he likes being close enough to home that his family can visit him at work.

"I hope that within the next 10 years, we can do all of our stuff here. I've been out in L.A. and some people just won't even look at you. I love it down here, man."

Michael Mills writes for Cox News Service.

Hulk Hogan, left, played Rip, a world champion wrestler, in his first feature film, "No Holds Barred."

Hulk Hogan has just signed a deal with New Japan Pro-Wrestling, led by Anonio Inoki. He'll wrestle five or six shots and get about $100,000 per match. He debuts with them on Sept. 19 or 23 in Yokohama, Japan. New Japan has a working relationship with WCW, therefore it is not out of the question to see Hogan appear with WCW stars while he is working for Inoki.

El Gigante has signed with Titan and should appear in the WWF shortly. There has been talk that Andre the Giant will introduce him to the public, if he can still walk!

WWF at Meadowlands in East Rutherford, NJ, on 7/11: LOD & Paul Ellering beat Beverly Bros & Genius, Big Bossman beat Nailz by DQ when the former Convict used the nightstick, El Matador beat Skinner, Mountie beat Slaughter by countout, Bret Hart pinned Shawn Michaels, Warrior pinned Shango.

WWF at Charlotte Coliseum in NC on 7/11: Jim Powers pinned Brooklyn Brawler, Tatanka beat Rick Martel, Nasty Boys beat High Energy, Disasters beat Money Inc by countout, Undertaker pinned Berzerker and tombstoned Fuji, Bulldog pinned Repo Man, Savage beat Flair by DQ.

Great American Bash PPV from Albany, GA, on 7/12: Koloff & Steamboat beat Pillman & Liger, Hase & Hashimoto beat Freebirds, Rhodes & Windham beat Austin & Rude (best match of the night), Williams & Gordy beat Koloff & Steamboat, Windham & Rhodes beat Hase & Hashimoto, Williams & Gordy beat Rhodes & Windham to win the NWA World Tag Team Title Tournament. Big Van Vader pinned Sting with a powerbomb to win the WCW Heavyweight Championship. All matches were decent length but some lacked heat.

The rate of The Wrestling Flyer Newsletter has changed and is available at $1.50 per issue ($2.25 for people outside the U.S.). This is the permanent rate. To all subscribers who ordered it under the past rates- The amount of issues that you'll receive has been adjusted to the $1.50 rate. Send all subscriptions, news items, and results, to The Wrestling Flyer Newsletter, PO Box 283, Wallingford, PA 19086. Each issue comes with fresh inside news, fascinating interviews, results, and a great color photo. The # after your name on the address label tells you how many issues you have left on your current subscription. If there is a (0), this is your last issue.